



**Lagan Valley Area  
Spring 2021**

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Dear Friends,

What is a proverb? A proverb is a short sentence that is full of meaning and sound advice, for example, "If a job is worth doing it is worth doing well." Heather and I are so thankful to each one of you who are involved in the work within the Lagan Valley area. A well known proverb says, "Many hands make light work." Thank you for your involvement. Each one of you plays a different role. It may be that you are involved directly teaching the children and young people from the Word of God. Or perhaps you spend time in the place of prayer. One of our previous workers used to say, "Prayer is the work." Each month the area has expenses to cover. Praise God for those of you who regularly give of your finances. Another proverb says, "It's better to give than to receive."

We would like to highlight one very special group of people, the Lagan Valley Committee. No doubt you have heard the proverb, "Behind every good man there is a good woman." I have certainly found this to be true. Thank you Heather. Within C.E.F. behind every full-time worker there are great people. Heather and I find this to be so true here in the Lagan Valley area. We meet with our committee members on the second Monday of each month. Heather and I truly appreciate their friendship, loyalty, wisdom, patience and advice. We also want you to know about their generosity. Back in February they presented us with gift vouchers for the Farnham Estate Spa Resort and Dundonald Nurseries. This was to acknowledge my 25 years as a full-time worker in this area. We were overwhelmed by their thoughtfulness and giving.

Another well known proverb says, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Well this isn't true. When I started my training period with the mission back in October 1994 my main equipment was a flannelgraph board and an overhead projector. Heather and I have had to learn so many new things since this time last year. In school, Heather has had to cope with online teaching and google classroom. In the ministry we have had to learn to use Zoom to enable us to teach the children. We are so thankful to Ashleigh Martin and Rosi Bell for being our Zoom hosts. Each Tuesday approximately sixty seven children log on to the two Good News Clubs. The following articles are from two of the children who log on to the afternoon club.

*My name is Andrew Tinsley and I am a year 7 pupil at Ballinderry Primary School. I have been going to Good News Club since I started Primary School.*

*At Good News Club we used to sing choruses. We pray, have a quiz, learn a memory verse and listen to a missionary story or a Bible story. We are currently learning about Samuel, how God*

*raised him to be a prophet and persuaded the children of Israel to obey Him. He then anointed Saul as King of the Israelites. I am excited to hear more about Samuel and Saul's lives and how they obeyed God.*

*I loved going to Good News Club after school. Unfortunately we cannot meet together now, but I am thankful we can still have a Good News Club via Zoom. It is not the same but it's a great alternative. David, Heather and Ashleigh make it so much fun but also make sure we know how important it is for us to ask Jesus into our heart and follow and obey Him.*

*I am going to miss Good News Club when I go to my new school in September!*

*I have been attending Good News Club since starting primary school in year one. My brothers attended before I did and they told me all about it and I could not wait to go.*

*I really look forward to hearing all the Bible stories. Each week we were told a missionary story and we heard how the Good News of Jesus dying on the cross to take away our sins. We also heard about different missionaries who scarified everything to tell boys and girls like me that there was a way to Heaven through Jesus Christ. From week to week, we would be left at a stage in the story where we could not wait until the following week to hear what happened next.*

*Every Tuesday, we would try our best to get 'best boy' or 'best girl' and if you achieved that you were awarded a prize from the prize box.*

*We would sing songs about Jesus and when I sang them at home, my mum and dad remembered singing these songs when they were little.*

*One of the highlights of Good News Club was learning the memory verse and if you were able to recite it you also got a prize. There was a quiz each week, which got quite competitive and it was great when the girls would win.*

*In March 2020, Covid-19, stopped us from meeting in Good News Club when all the schools were closed. I was delighted when David Cowan contacted my Mum to see if I would be interested in joining Good News Club through Zoom. This has worked really well and at Christmas we wore our Christmas jumpers and the leaders kindly dropped off gifts at each of our homes which was a lovely surprise.*

*I look forward to each Tuesday when we can meet for Good News Club and even though it is very different from meeting in school, I still really enjoy it and David asks us each week if we have any prayer requests.*

*As this is my last year in primary school I am going to miss Good News Club when I start secondary school. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending and I have learnt so much over the years about Jesus and what He did for me.*

*By: Hannah Burke*

We are also thankful to David Ball, Callum Bowsie, Esther Christie and Ben Conroy who all have helped to ensure that assembly lessons are recorded, edited, and sent into fifteen primary schools. Praise God that the Junior Youth Challenges and Senior Youth Challenge all continue via Zoom. The following articles are from two of the young people who log on to Junior Youth challenge.

*Although having J.Y.C. online is not as good as seeing people in real life, at least it allows us to keep friendships that we have made through J.Y.C. We are thankful that the leaders are still able to come up with enjoyable and interactive games even through Zoom calls.*

*As a result of lockdown, I have become more appreciative of being able to go out with my friends and family, and I've become aware that we took everything we could do for granted. For example, I miss being able to play games that can't be done over Zoom, like unihoc. One good thing about J.Y.C. being online is not having to go to the hall on a cold, wet Saturday night.*

*By: Aaron Campbell, Ballynahinch J.Y.C.*

*J.Y.C. 2019*

*A 'normal' J.Y.C. Saturday night in 2019 at St Johns Dromara was always good fun where tea and biscuits were always on the go.*

*Although we were in small numbers, everyone enjoyed our fortnightly 'get together' with our leaders Natalie and Louise.*

*Fast Forward to 2021 and things are very different. We stay at home with our devices, meet up via Zoom, and we have to make our own tea and biscuits! Along with Dromara members, we join with Ballynahinch and Annahilt, so it has been great to see more new faces and meet new leaders.*

*We have study time, hear from different leaders and have games and competitions. A lot of effort goes into preparing quizzes and having the meeting as interactive as possible.*

*Zoom tends to turn us teenagers into quiet, shy beings so sometimes the leaders have their work cut out to get us going - although Ben usually succeeds with his Quiz Master Character, and of course... Dizzy Dizzy Splash!*

*Although things have been different, having J.Y.C. has been very important. I really look forward to being able to meet socially again and maybe even join up with the other local J.Y.C's to meet them in person.*

*A big thank you to all the leaders who put so much effort into Zooms. More good memories have been made, like technical difficulties, leaders forgetting to unmute...etc.*

*Most importantly being able to grow in our Christian faith and be encouraged by our leaders.*

*By: Kelsey Monteith*

Our prayer meetings have also had to be held via Zoom. Normally this month we would be holding our Spring week of prayer times in homes or churches. Owing to the current restrictions this won't be possible. However four prayer times are going to be held via Zoom on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. See below for the log in details. These times of prayer will commence at 8.00pm and finish at 9.30pm. The Saturday night, youth time of prayer will begin at 8.30pm. Ashleigh Martin is looking after this prayer time which will include the Junior Youth Challenge leaders and young people plus those who are involved in Senior Youth Challenge.

In closing may we finish with a couple more proverbs, "Many hands make light work." If you would like to become involved in the work of this area please get in touch. When should you contact us? "There is no time like the present." The best time to do something is right now!

<i>Log in details for the Zoom prayer meetings:</i>		
Monday	Meeting ID: 876 5263 9922	Passcode: 659582
Thursday	Meeting ID: 876 5263 9922	Passcode: 659582
Friday	Meeting ID: 853 0085 5610	Passcode: 705856

God bless, David & Heather